

**VIOLENCE FREE TAIRAWHITI NETWORK**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2017**

**FEBRUARY 2017**

**Kia ora and welcome to the tenth issue of our VFTN newsletter for 2017, this newsletter incorporates October, November and the start of December**

Don’t forget that if you wish to have something included in the monthly newsletter, please email the document/details to [wendy.miller@barnardos.org.nz](mailto:wendy.miller@barnardos.org.nz) by the middle of the month.

***Family Violence Statistics for Tairāwhiti***

For the month of October our Police attended 350 incidents (that equates to 11.29 incidents a day; there were 508 children listed on the incident forms and although this does not mean that they were present, it does mean that they are currently associated with the adults who were involved. Those stats are very alarming.

For November, the situation had improved somewhat with 213 incidents and 294 children, but still too high.

Let’s continue to support each other in the work that we do to influence our families to seek help before things get out of control.

***Thought for the Month***

*Violence only attacks the body, but it is non-violence that has the power to influence the soul and reshape it towards a peaceful future.*

[*Abhijit Naskar*](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/13720247.Abhijit_Naskar)

Defining Family Violence – a reminder for us all [From Family Violence Clearing House this month]

The Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) has released a new report about Family Group Conferences (FGCs). It found that "practices varied hugely across different sites" and "that as part of the transformation of CYF into Oranga Tamariki, there was a significant challenge ahead to ensure children and young people and their whānau are adequately prepared for FGCs." (page 5)

The OCC reviewed FGC practices at six Child, Youth and Family (CYF) sites in October and November 2016. The review was conducted in collaboration with CYF to prepare for the transition. The review focused on preparation for FGCs, however the report also describes issues related to facilitation during the meetings and implementation of plans after the meetings where these emerged. The report, [**Fulfilling the Vision: Improving Family Group Conference preparation and participation**](http://www.occ.org.nz/publications/reports/state-of-care-2017-family-group-conferences/) (2017), found many organisational and site level barriers preventing high quality preparation for FGCs. There were pockets of high quality pre-FGC practice, however key concerns included:

* Overall, pre-FGC practice varied significantly
* Hui-a-whānau and whakapapa searching were only in the early stages of development (the care and protection sites) or not used at all (the youth justice sites)
* FGC coordinators had variable levels of contact with children, young people, their whānau and (in youth justice cases) victims prior to FGCs
* Children were not typically included in hui-a-whānau
* There was a lack of consideration for how to engage mokopuna Māori and their whānau, hapū or iwi in culturally responsive ways
* There was a lack of workforce capacity to conduct hui-a-whānau and whakapapa searches
* There were examples of poor quality during-FGC facilitation, inadequate FGC plans, and a lack of oversight of the implementation of FGC plans.

CYF national office selected the sites as *exemplar* FGC sites. The report stated:

*"We are concerned that the six exemplar sites were not adequately preparing children and young people or their families and whānau for FGCs. In all likelihood, it means practice is even more variable across other sites. CYF was therefore missing out on a major opportunity to improve outcomes for their clients."*(page 9)

The report provides more detailed information about the concerns identified in the review, the benefits of high quality FGCs, examples of high quality FGCs and barriers to delivering high quality FGCs.

The report makes recommendations with action points, these can be read in the full report.

The OCC provided the draft report to CYF in February 2017. The report says "we are encouraged by the progress that Oranga Tamariki has already made across many sites to enable high quality preparation for FGCs. We will continue to follow how this work progresses."

[**Children's Commissioner Andrew Becroft said**](http://www.occ.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Media-release-State-of-Care-1-Dec-2017.pdf):

*“When properly resourced and practiced, I believe the FGC process has in it the seeds of genius. However, 27 years on from the original Act, we have only partially put this vision into practice. In particular, holding hui-a-whanau (family meetings) prior to the FGC, and conducting whakapapa searching will help increase participation of children and young people, whānau, hapū and iwi, and of victims for youth justice. The launch of the Oranga Tamariki and the supporting revisions to the legislation gives us a unique opportunity to address long-standing deficiencies identified in this report and to significantly improve practice."*

For more information, listen to a [**brief interview with the Children's Commissioner on Radio NZ**](http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018623762/maori-let-down-by-system-children-s-commissioner).

**Responses to the report**

The report details steps that MVCOT has already taken to address the concerns raised in the report. This includes:

* Funding whakapapa searching and hui-a-whānau across 21 care and protection sites
* Providing induction training and ongoing mentoring to 15 relatively new youth justice FGC coordinators and 15 care and protection coordinators; and
* Trialling external iwi-based FGC coordinators at two sites.

**Related news**

[**MVCOT recently published a report about higher than expected rates of harm**](https://www.nzfvc.org.nz/news/mvcot-report-finds-higher-rates-harm-among-children-care) experienced by children in state care.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Monitoring Group, chaired by the Office of the Children's Commissioner, released a [**report examining how New Zealand has put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice**](https://www.nzfvc.org.nz/news/nz-monitoring-group-publishes-report-international-rights-children).

The Salvation Army has published their [**10th State of the Nation report, 'Off the Track**](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/research-media/social-policy-and-parliamentary-unit/reports/off-the-track-SON2017)' and a companion report, [**State of our Communities**](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/research-media/social-policy-and-parliamentary-unit/latest-report/State-of-Communities-2017). The reports examine data on social and economic issues, including child abuse and neglect.

This year, the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 was [**overhauled and renamed**](https://nzfvc.org.nz/news/child-protection-reform-bill-passes-law) the [**Oranga Tamariki Act 1989**](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0024/118.0/DLM147088.html)*,*with an accompanying title of the Children’s and Young People’s Well-being Act 1989.

VFTN UPDATE

* Remember to check out the Manaaki Tairāwhiti website [www.mt.org.nz](http://www.mt.org.nz)
* Community Champions Against Family Violence Project: our project with It’s Not OK has been launched! Fourteen of the Champions attended the “soft launch” at the Blues ‘n Roots on 35 Music and Arts Festival on White Ribbon day and were introduced to the crowd. Sadly not many people attended but those who did all agreed it was a great day out, a quality event with fantastic music and some spectacular art on display. We have such great talent in Tairāwhiti.
* The main launch happened last weekend (Sunday 10 December) at the Christmas Parade where 20 of the Champions became a “walking float” in the Parade, and many of them stayed around afterwards to help at the street carnival. It was very effective to see the It’s Not OK tee shirts en masse. We also had a stall where we gave out It’s Not OK and anti violence resources and helping messages. Our posters are in the process of being made, so look out for some of these coming up in the Gisborne Herald, we are very excited about them, they’re looking great.







Chilling out with the music ….



**Some of our Champions ….**

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**These two songbirds were rocking the Christmas songs …. Hmm, just as well there’s no audio here**

**UPDATES FROM OUR COMMUNITY**

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| **TAIRAWHITI COMMUNITY VOICE:** Check out the relevant information on:  [http://tcvhub.co.nz/NewsEvents](http://tcvhub.co.nz/NewsEvents.aspx) |
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**AT BARNARDOS:**

* Parenting Through Separation sessions. When parents separate the whole family is affected, and this programme is to help parents focus on the needs of their children during separation so they can support them through the process and make the best possible contact arrangements.  Final sessions for the year are being held, with new sessions commencing in the first term of 2018.

For further information or to enrol please phone the office on 06-869-1340 or email [cathy.porter@barnardos.org.nz](mailto:cathy.porter@barnardos.org.nz)

* Children’s Safety Programme (formerly called Footsteps to Feeling Safe): help for child witnesses or victims of family violence. To enrol for term one 2018, ***Contact Barnardos for details.***

**AT TAUAWHI:**

* Dad & Me – a 4 week foundation Parenting programme for Dads
* Building Awesome Whanau: a 6 session Toolbox Parenting Programme**-** runs periodically
* Individual counselling and Youth Social work support
* Non-Violence Programmes(Court Directed)
* Weekly Men’s Group (Self Referred)

***Contact Tauawhi for more details.***

**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSE DOWN FOR AGENCIES**

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| **AGENCY** | **CLOSE DATE** | **RE-OPEN DATE** |
| Barnardos | 22 December 2017 | 8 January 2018 |
| Family Works and Tauawhi Men’s Centre | 22 December 2017 | 8 January 2018 |
| Ruatoria Whanau Oranga | 22 December 2017 | 8 January 2018 |
| Supergrans Tairāwhiti *[Social Worker on call for clients]* | 22 December 2017 | 15 January 2018 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | 22 December 2017 | 3 January 2018 |
| Alzheimers Gisborne | 20 December 2017 | 10 January 2018 |
| Plunket *[Nurses available by calling 867 7711 ext 2]* | 22 December 2017 | 10 January 2018 |
| Inland Revenue Department | 22 December 2017 | 3 January 2018 |
| Gisborne Budget Advisory Service Inc | 22 December 2017 | 15 January 2018 |
| Geneva Health | No closure |  |
| Oranga Tamariki |  |  |
| Victim Support | No closure |  |
| TROTAK *[Whanau Ora emergency 027 246 1863]* | 22 December 2017 | 4 January 2018 |
| Wellstop | 21 December 2017 | 8 January 2018 |
| TRONPnui | 22 December 2017 | 8 January 2018 |
| Whangaia Nga Pa Harakeke – Family Harm Team | Closed Christmas Day only | |

**National helplines**

* Need to talk? Free call or text[**1737**](https://1737.org.nz/) any time for support from a trained counsellor
* [**Lifeline**](http://www.lifeline.org.nz/corp_Home_378_2001.aspx)– 0800 543 354 or (09) 5222 999 within Auckland
* [**Suicide Crisis Helpline**](http://www.lifeline.org.nz/Suicide-Intervention_2022.aspx) – 0508 828 865 (0508 TAUTOKO)
* [**Healthline**](http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/health-care-services/healthline) – 0800 611 116
* [**Samaritans**](http://samaritans.org.nz/) – 0800 726 666
* **Family Violence, Are You Okay?** 0800 456 450

Greg Brown and the Family Harm Team wish everyone a safe and happy festive season, and ask that we look after each other and enjoy the holiday time. Take time during the rush of the holidays to enjoy the things in life that really matter. Take time to take in the quiet moments spent with friends and loved ones. And may the wonder of Christmas surround you throughout the season.



**UPCOMING EVENTS – December**

Did you know that Ka Pai Kaiti has a **weekly** calendar of events? We share it here for your information, contact them at [www.kapaikaiti.com](http://www.kapaikaiti.com) for more details and for their Whanau in the Park Days :

Monday Romiromi Sessions 6-8pm (koha)

Monday-Friday Bro Tec (computer repairs)

Monday-Saturday Tupa Fadez Haircuts

Monday-Sunday Whanau Support

Tuesday Markets 7-12 Lunchtime

Tuesday-Friday Foxy Locks Women’s Haircuts

Thursday Ka Pai Kaiti Kings Chess and Draughts Club 6-8pm

Thursday Whanau Support with Meph (P) 12-2pm

Saturday Kaiti Mall Market 7am-1pm

Sunday Spin Classes 12.30-2.30pm.

* Heart of Gisborne Christmas in the City and Santa’s Grotto, 10am-2pm daily, December 13-20 and 22-24, in Treble Court. Free. Bouncy castle, story time, arts and craft, face-painting, photos with Santa
* Saturday December 16, Lean On Me Concert (Suicide Awareness) 11am, Hinerupe Marae, Paikea Street, Te Araroa. Guest speakers Mike King and Eru Whare. Workshops, horse rides, bouncy castle, stalls

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***Meri Kirihimete, Merry Christmas***

*“So this is Christmas  
And what have you done   
Another year over   
And a new one just begun   
And so this is Christmas   
I hope you have fun   
The near and the dear ones   
The old and the young” – John Lennon*

Faith makes all things possible, Hope makes all things work, Love makes all things beautiful, May you have all three for this Christmas.

**Stay safe everyone and enjoy time with friends and family – let’s keep it violence-free**